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## ***Community E-lert®***

DATE: November 17, 2005

TO: Community E-lert Recipients

FROM: Jeffrey Chen, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Community E-lert #05-044

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*Community E-lert® is a registered trademark of the City of Medina Police Department. This announcement is provided as a public service to residents of Medina and Hunts Point. It is our intention to distribute these E-lerts following an occurrence or condition that may have public safety or community well-being implications. E-lerts are also available via fax for those residents without access to email.*

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## **HOLIDAY SEASON CRIME PREVENTION TIPS**

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Medina Police Department would like to remind you to be extra vigilant about securing your homes, vehicles and mail. As we are all aware, criminals look for opportunities to take advantage, and the Medina Police Department wants you to have a safe and happy holiday season.

### Please remember these important crime prevention tips:

- **Secure your homes and vehicles.** Ensure all doors and windows are secure when you leave, even if you are only going to be away a short time. In addition, engage your alarm system if you have one.
- **French doors** – If you have french doors, remember to bolt the door into the frame. The doors are not secure if the deadbolt is the only lock engaged.
- **Do not leave mail in your mailbox overnight.** If you are going out of town, request that your mail be held at the post office until you return. Even if you have a locking mailbox, it is not safe to leave your mail for extended periods of time.

- **Do not leave packages on your doorstep.** If you are unable to be home or are going to be out of town when packages arrive, arrange for a friend or neighbor to pick them up shortly after delivery or request they be held until your return.
- **Remove all packages from your vehicles.** Criminals often look through car windows to see if there is anything worth taking. If shopping bags or packages are visible, they see this as an opportunity to get great gifts for free!
- **Inform your neighbors if you will be out of town.** Medina officers are often alerted to suspicious activity because a watchful neighbor calls 911. If your neighbors know you are out of town, they can help us watch for unwanted activity. Additionally, make use of the Medina Police Department's Housewatch Program. You can register for the Housewatch Program by visiting the city website at [www.medina-wa.gov](http://www.medina-wa.gov) before leaving town.

**These simple measures can go a long way in preventing criminal activity in our community!**

If you have questions about this information, please call the Medina Police Department at 425-233-6420.